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US egg recall above half-billion and growing

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A massive recall of eggs possibly tainted with salmonella bacteria is now at more than half billion and could grow, the top US food safety official said yesterday.

"It is the largest egg recall that we've had in recent history," Margaret Hamburg, head of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said.

"We may see some additional recalls over the next couple days, even weeks, as we better understand the network of distribution of these eggs," she said.

Hamburg added that US officials were "continuing to investigate aggressively to determine the exact source of the contamination as we move forward with the recall."

There are no known salmonella deaths due to the eggs, but health officials said the outbreak has sickened hundreds of people across the United States.

Some 40 new cases of sal-

monella were reported to health authorities over the last week, according to Jeff Farrar, FDA associate commissioner for food protection.

Between May and July, 2,000 cases were reported across the United States, around 1,300 more than would be expected for that time period, Farrar said. "You can do the math, but we don't know which of those cases are due to an outbreak," he said.

He also acknowledged that the true number of cases could be significantly higher than the official tally. He said scientists estimate there are between 30-38 additional salmonella cases for each one that is reported.

The recalls affect two chicken egg processors -- Hillandale Farms and Wright County Eggs, both in the mid-western state of Iowa -- and cover at least 14 US states, from California to Arkansas.

The FDA said infected rodents many have spread the salmonella to the eggs.

US open to admitting some Cuban political prisoners

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it is open to the idea of admitting some of the freed Cuban political prisoners who went to Spain, but has received no formal requests do so.

"Some that have made the trip from Cuba to Spain have inquired about coming to the United States," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters. "We will evaluate those cases... on a case-by-case basis."

He added that while some have made inquiries, he was not aware that any had made a formal request to live in the United States.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke over the telephone on Saturday with Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos about the freed dissidents, both sides said.

In a deal struck between the Roman Catholic Church and the government of Cuban President Raul Castro that was brokered by Spain, Cuba agreed to

free 52 of 75 dissidents sentenced in 2003 to prison terms of up to 28 years.

Twenty dissidents arrived in Spain last month, and six this week in the latest batch whose release was announced by the church on August 13.

Havana agreed to free the dissidents within a period of four months after hunger striker Guillermo Farinas nearly starved to death in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Crowley said New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has arrived in Cuba as part of a trade mission for his home state but also to discuss the case of an American contractor who has been detained there for nine months.

Gross was arrested Decem-

ber 5, reportedly while distributing cell phones, laptops and other communications equipment.

Gross worked for an NGO contracted by the State Department to supply computer and communications material to civil society groups on the island, according to the United States which seeks his release.

Cuba insists however he is a spy who had sophisticated communications equipment for dissidents in the Americas' only one-party Communist regime.

Both the US government and the US company that employed the contractor, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), denied the espionage charges.

At least 19 bodies found in Mexican mass grave

PACHUCA, Mexico (AFP) - Mexican authorities acting on a tip by an arrested drug gang member have found at least 19 bodies, most of them mutilated, in a mine in central Mexico, officials and local press said yesterday.

"It's not known exactly how many bodies there are," said Enrique Rojas, an official with the public security ministry. "Most of the bodies were mutilated."

Local press reports said the location of the mass grave came from a confession by a member of the Los Zetas drug gang, who also implicated a dozen Hidalgo police, who were arrested on corruption charges.

The bodies were found in a mine in the outskirts of Pachuca, the capital of the central state of Hidalgo, 120 kilometers (72 miles) from Mexico City.



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News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
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Aruba will get three house doctors, among them one Aruban

ORANJESTAD -- Mrs. Solange Tjong of the AZV, the government's medical insurance department, gave the following declaration regarding the many complaints on the working system of house doctors.

The AZV does not have any agreement with the house doctors about how many patients they have to attend per day. It is not so that they have to attend a maximum of 20 patients a day.

AZV has a contract with the doctors association that states the hours per day a house doctor is allowed to dedicate to his/her practice. Also on the hours allowed for administration and for emergencies that may present at his/her office during consulting hours. The doctor is not tied to a certain amount of patients see per day, that the doctor must decide for themselves.

According to Mrs. Tjong, Aruba has a shortage of house doctors. The department received several calls of

people complaining of the service of the AZV, or that they cannot get telephone contact with their house doctors. One very important complaint is that patients have to wait weeks or sometimes even months to get an appointment with their doctor. AZV understands this is very annoying for a patient.

This is why the AZV is trying to come up with different solutions to alleviate this situation.

Doctor Charlotte van Horenbeeck started working on August 1, at her office at Quito 20B. All AZV patients can now register here to get a new house doctor. She is from Belgium and has already worked on Aruba as a replacement for other doctors.

The AZV is also holding talks with two other house doctors and if everything goes well one of them will start working in October as house doctor on the island. One of the doctors is an Aruban.

Doctor Hairo Renteria Matiz will replace doctor Ayala

ORANJESTAD -- AZV announces that since August 16, Ophthalmologist Hairo Renteria Matiz from Bogota, Colombia, is working as an eye specialist on Aruba. He is working at Dr Jacobs office in Stadionweg 11 and is ready to help AZV patients.

At present AZV has three eye specialists in service. Besides Dr. Renteria Matiz, Aruba has Dr. Bibiana Mosquera, also from Bogota, Colombia, who is working at the medical center in San Nicolas. She has a vast experience and is specialized in cataract. Together with Dr. Jacobs they makeup Aruba's ophthalmology team.

Dr. Renteria has a contract until December 2010, to help as much as possible with

pending operations. Also to see if after that there is the necessity for another eye specialist. He replaces Dr. Ayala, who retired.

AZV guarantees that all doctors coming here to work are adequately screened. The insurance department works according to Europe standards where doctors must be registered. But because of the lack of doctors from Europe, AZV opted to look for doctors in our own region, but taking into account that they meet the Europe standards of medicinal practice.

The reason for the short-term contract is to give Arubans, willing to come back to work here, the opportunity to do so.



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The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tonight!

ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminstraat. The festival is for tourists and locals to mix and mingle and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This weeks the festival will feature the traditional Aruban Caha d'Orgel. "Crystal," musical group; "Grupo Criollo," Dance groups: "Mini Chaz

Dancers," "Youth Chaz Dancers," and "Aruba Dance Formation," solo singer: "Hilyann Croes" and steel band: "Traditional Steel." MC is Juby Naar.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and handicraft on sale.

Arubus has regularly scheduled bus transport from all hotel areas to Oranjestad's cen-

tral terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is US\$2.30.

Come, meet the islands, absorb some local color and culture, and get a taste of our Dushi Aruba.

The festival is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Entrance is 5 Aruban florins or US\$3.

French army fights dengue in Caribbean departments

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique -- The French army has been deployed to the French Caribbean departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe to help fight a dengue epidemic, which has been spreading since December. At least 13 people have died of the mosquito-borne virus since the beginning of February.

As of yesterday, a special army force helped local teams already working on destroying

mosquitoes and their breeding grounds around schools before they open on September 3.

The operation will start in the south of Martinique, where the epidemic began.

People are being encouraged to get rid of stagnant water and other places that could serve as mosquito breeding grounds. They are also being encouraged to wear covering clothes, to use insect repellent and to sleep under

mosquito netting.

Guadeloupe has been the most affected, with some 33,000 cases reported since December 2009. Martinique has reported 25,600 cases.

According to official statistics, there were 3,400 new cases in Martinique in the first week of August and 4,000 in Guadeloupe. The second week there were 4,160 cases in Martinique and 3,700 in Guadeloupe.

Taking a bite out of the boa constrictor here Sam Houston State University Grad student investigates diet habit of boas and the Cascabel



ORANJESTAD—It tastes like chicken, was the comments of Jeff Goessling and Salvador Franken, head ranger of the Arikok National Park, after demonstratively taking a bite out of fried boa constrictor meat.

The demonstration was part of the presentation of preliminary results of Goessling's study on the eating habits of the boa constrictor and the Aruba rattlesnake, the cascabel. The Sam Houston State University graduate student spent three months in Aruba studying the diet of the two snakes, to determine whether the boa constrictor's presence here is affecting the diet of the Cascabel. The boa constrictor is an invasive animal that somehow found a way to not only survive but also thrive.

Great part of the investigation concentrated in part of the park known to be a favorite habitat for both snakes, namely the 'baranca' at Bu-

tucu. Goessling, along with the Arikok National Park Ecologist Diego Marquez and rangers Juan Croes and Agapito Gomez spend weeks, from sunrise to sunset and beyond to track and observe the animals. In addition, they also studied stomach contents of boa constrictors found outside the park boundaries.

Jeff Goessling's study is a continuation of studies conducted in Aruba on both the Cascabel and the boa constrictor by Professor Howard Reinert of The College of New Jersey, Professor Bill Lutterschmidt of Sam Houston State University and Curator of the Toledo Zoological Society, Herpetologist Andy Odum.

Odum was the first to visit Aruba decades ago to determine the state of the Aruban rattlesnake, the rarest rattlesnake in the world that was facing extinction. He teamed up with Professor Reinert to not only to conduct extensive

studies but also to save the species, by relocating Cascabel to the area of the national park, thus eliminating the competition for habitat (with humans). But, with the arrival of the boa constrictor, first noted in 1999, the scientists feared the more avid invader could become detrimental for the rattlesnake. With the help of Lutterschmidt they conducted a comprehensive study on the boa constrictor, its hunting range and survival tactics.

And their diet is an important factor. Dr. Lutterschmidt did a study on the stomach contents, and that study has been expanded with a specific investigation by Jeff Goessling. His preliminary conclusions entail that both the boa constrictor and the Cascabel feed for a large part on the Aruban Kododo, a blue lizard found only in Aruba. Both snake species that somehow are concentrated on the 'baranca' share thus not only



the habitat but also the largest food supply there. Therefore, Goessling said, it is also important to determine if the Kododo population is able to absorb another predator, without having an impact on the number of lizards. This could have an effect on the Cascabel on the long run.

In addition to the snakes in the park, the graduate student also compared the boa constrictor with those found in urban areas. He found that 'urban' boa constrictors were larger and better fed. Their diets consist mostly of rats and mice, as well as other small animals like chicken. Head Ranger Salvador Franken said that the snakes are dawn by the supply of food, and that residents here can limit the presence of boa constrictor by eliminating areas where rodents live. Litter and debris around the house and in the yard will attract these animals, which in turn make it easy for the boa constrictor to thrive.

According to Jeff Goessling, the difference between the boa constrictors in the park and those found in urban areas is startling. "we've been tracking one boa in the park for over 7 years now and the animal has not grown much and is still as slim as it was before," he commented.

Jeff Goessling will present his investigation to the Sam Houston State University as part of his thesis. The study in Aruba was financed by the Dutch Herpetology Foundation and the results will also be useful for Arikok Park Management to have a more effective control on the snake, particularly boa population.

As for the 'tasting' of boa meat, Arikok Park Director Ambrosio Curiel decided not to risk it. According to Goessling and Franken though, it could be considered as a potential meat source. "With proper cooking, any harmful bacteria could be removed and it truly tastes like chicken," Goessling said.

New baby donkey born at the Sanctuary

On Tuesday, August 17, Tootsie finally gave birth to a little girl. The baby's name is Boefie.

"We had been waiting a long time for the birth as we thought it would happen at the beginning of July. Tootsie was

already pregnant when we picked her up off the street in April. She came to the Sanctuary with two other donkeys, Rambo and Kidsy," a sanctuary spokesperson said.

Boefie got her name from two very nice ladies who vis-

ited the Sanctuary back in May. They adopted her mother, Tootsie, and also decided to adopt the unborn baby. They waited a long time for her arrival.

Boefie has some trouble with her hind legs, they are very wobbly. She is getting extra vitamins to see if that will help. Her leg muscles are strong.

As you can see from the pictures, she is a very cute little donkey.

You can visit Boefie at the Sanctuary located in Sta. Lucia. The hours are Monday through Friday from 9am to 4 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.





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International organization recognizes Minister of Tourism's hard work

Minister Otmar Oduber receives plaque and plant for his efforts in sustaining tourism



Recently, Minister of Labor, Transport and Tourism Otmar Oduber received a courtesy visit of EarthCheck executives.

EarthCheck is a global benchmarking and certification program, developed by

Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre (STCRC), the biggest center in sustainable tourism re-



search. The center has more than 10 years operating under the license of Green Globe International. During those 10 years, the organization certified more than 350 hotels worldwide, of which 50 of them are in the Caribbean and 8 on Aruba. Besides hotels, EarthCheck also certifies tourism related industries. They are the leaders and pioneers in the market of sustainable communication.

The executives met with Minister Oduber where they presented him with a plaque and a plant for his support in sustaining tourism. The minister, for his part, expressed to

continue with his management for an improved, durable tourism for Aruba.

He explained to EarthCheck Head of Global Markets Andre Russ and Sustainable Solutions Consulting N.V. Director Rene Leonora the different projects the Aruba government is busy with in the field of sustainable tourism.

Andre Russ handed the plaque to Minister Oduber, while Rene Leonora – the only certified auditor and consultant for GREEN GLOBE/EarthCheck - gave the minister the plant as a symbol of sustainability.

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Health/Living

Bottled vs. Brewed: Study reveals healthiest teas

Labels on bottled tea beverages are typically plastered with declarations of their rich antioxidant content. But a new study suggests, if you're looking for high doses of healthful antioxidants, you might be better off brewing your tea at home.

Many of the popular beverages included in the study contain fewer antioxidants than a single cup of home-brewed green or black tea, the researchers say. Some store-bought teas contain such small amounts that consumers would have to drink 20 bottles to get the antioxidants, also called polyphenols, present in one cup of tea.

"There is a huge gap between the perception that tea consumption is healthy and the actual amount of the healthful nutrients - polyphenols - found in bottled tea beverages. Our analysis of tea beverages found that the polyphenol content is extremely low," said study researcher Shiming Li, an analytical and natural product chemist at WellGen, Inc., a biotechnology company in



North Brunswick, N.J., that develops medical foods for patients with diseases, including a proprietary black tea product that will be marketed for its anti-inflammatory benefits.

In addition, bottled beverages often contain large amounts of sugar that health-conscious consumers may be trying to avoid, Li said.

The study was presented Aug. 22 at the 240th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Boston.

Bottled vs. brewed

Antioxidants are sub-



stances that protect cells against damage from unstable molecules called free radicals. They may play a role in preventing a host of diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's.

Li and colleagues measured the level of polyphenols of six brands of tea purchased from supermarkets. Half of them contained what Li characterized as "virtually no" antioxidants. The rest had small amounts of polyphenols that Li said probably would carry little health benefit, espe-

cially when considering the high sugar intake from tea beverages.

The six teas Li analyzed contained 81, 43, 40, 13, 4, and 3 milligrams of polyphenols per 16-ounce bottle. One average cup of home-brewed green or black tea, which costs only a few cents, contains 50-150 milligrams of polyphenols.

Less tea, more water

After water, tea is the world's most widely consumed beverage. Tea sales in the United States have quadrupled since 1990 and now total about \$7 billion annually.

Some manufacturers do list polyphenol content on the bottle label, Li said. But the amounts may be incorrect, because there are no industry or government standards or guidelines for measuring and listing the polyphenolic compounds in a given product. A regular tea bag, for example,

weighs about 2.2 grams and could contain as much as 175 mg of polyphenols, Li said. But polyphenols degrade and disappear as the tea bag is steeped in hot water. The polyphenol content also may vary as manufacturers change their processes, including the quantity and quality of tea used to prepare a batch and the tea brewing time.

"Polyphenols are bitter and astringent, but to target as many consumers as they can, manufacturers want to keep the bitterness and astringency at a minimum," Li explained. "The simplest way is to add less tea, which makes the tea polyphenol content low but tastes smoother and sweeter."

Li used a standard laboratory technique, termed high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), to make what he described as the first measurements of polyphenols in bottled tea beverages. He hopes the research will encourage similar use of HPLC by manufacturers and others to provide consumers with better nutritional information.

Intel Releases Faster Dual-core Atom Netbook Processor

Intel on Monday released a dual-core Atom N550 processor, which the company says will bring improved application and graphics performance to netbooks while retaining long battery life.

The Atom N550 processor is a big upgrade from previous processors in an Atom lineup that primarily consisted of single-core chips. The processor will operate at a speed of 1.5GHz, and include 1MB of cache.

The chip will be more responsive than single-core Atom processors, which go into most netbooks today, Intel said. Users will be able to run applications faster and play back 720p video in netbooks that are as thin and light as existing models. Netbooks with the new chip will offer similar battery life as its single-core predecessors, the company said.

New netbooks will be offered by companies including Acer, Asus, Lenovo, Samsung, and Toshiba starting on Monday, the chip maker said. Details about the netbooks, including price and availability, were not be immediately available.

Netbooks are low-cost PCs characterized by small screens and small keyboards, and were designed primarily to surf the Internet and run basic applications like word processors. Though popular, netbooks have been heavily criticized for underperformance and poor graphics, due partly to the limited processing power of Atom chips.

Consumers want their Tablets, some looking beyond iPad

The popularity of the Apple iPad does not mean others will fail in the tablet market, according to Thursday data from Forrester. A recent study found that 14 percent of U.S. online consumers – or 27 million people – intend to purchase a tablet in the next year.

At this point, however, there are very few tablet options except the iPad. Dell recently released its Streak tablet, but with a five-inch screen, it's really more of a large smartphone. Meanwhile, in its earnings call this week, Hewlett-Packard confirmed plans to build a WebOS-based tablet.

Last month, LG also said it is working on an Android-based tablet, and there are reports about a Lenovo Android device and a Chrome OS-based tablet from Google and HTC.



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TOPCAR

Gamer Sues NCsoft For 'Addiction' to Lineage II

Serious gamers can spend hours in front of their favorite games, but would they consider themselves addicts? Craig Smallwood certainly does, and he has sued NCsoft, maker of Lineage II, for failing to warn him and other users that the game is highly addictive.

Hawaii-resident Smallwood played Lineage II for more than 20,000 hours between 2004 and 2009, during which time he became "psychologically dependent and addicted" to the game, according to court filings posted by Wired.

NCsoft, however, "never

gave [Smallwood] any notice or warning of the danger of psychological dependence or addiction from continued play," according to the case.

A Hawaii judge recently threw out some of Smallwood's claims, but refused to dismiss the entire case, and let it proceed on claims of

negligence, gross negligence, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Smallwood also accused game moderators, known as Game Masters, of not effectively policing Lineage II, and instating "banning purges" intended to "promote Aion and increase their profits."

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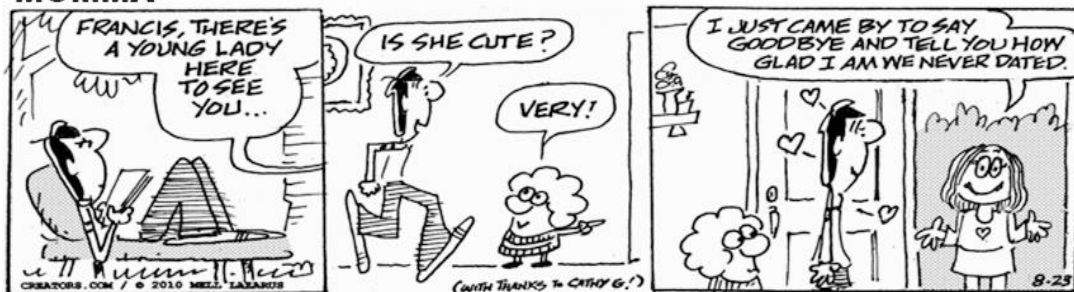


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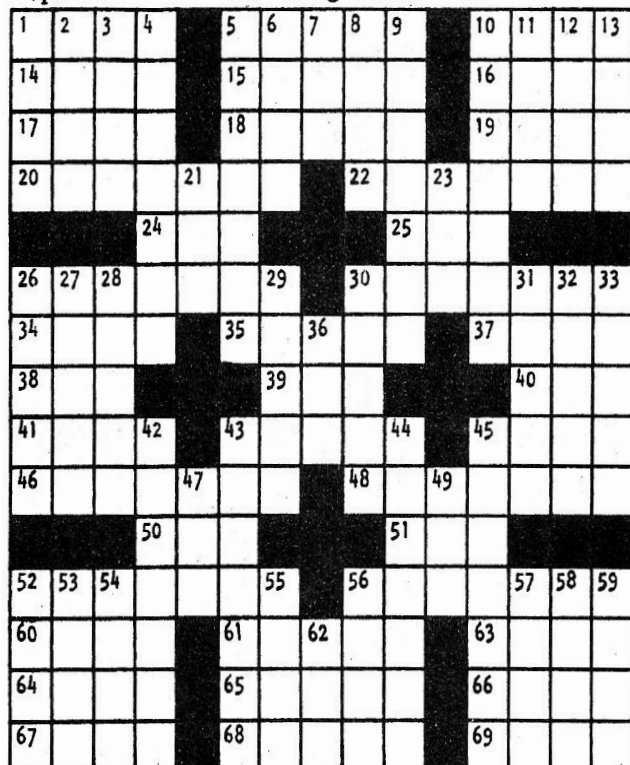


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8. Leg part, in anatomy
9. Subjugate
10. Injunction
11. Lilylike plant
12. Doer: suffix
13. "____ and Lovers"

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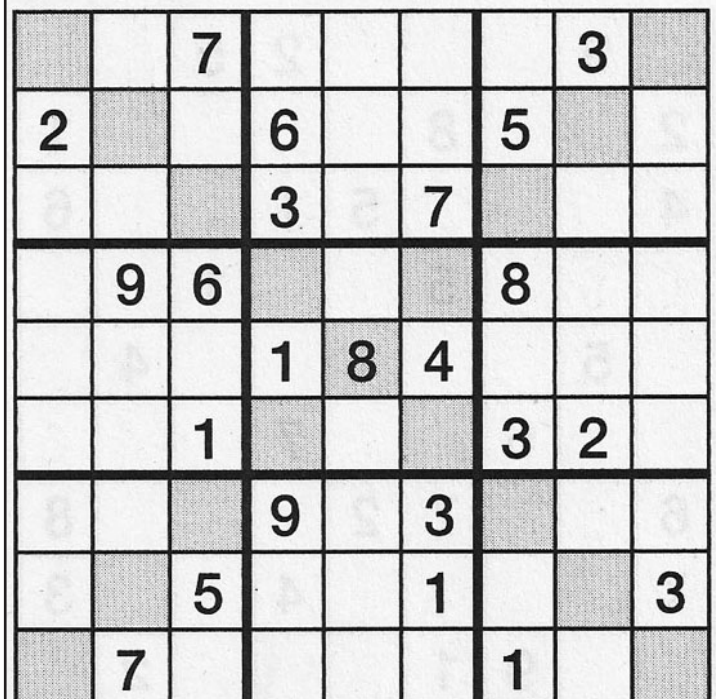
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	6	1	9	2	4	8	7	3
8	9	2	1	7	8	9	4	6
8	7	2	8	9	6	2	1	9
4	2	8	6	9	7	1	9	8
6	9	9	7	8	1	8	2	7
1	7	8	9	8	2	9	6	4
2	8	6	7	1	8	4	9	9
7	1	9	8	4	9	6	8	2
9	8	4	2	6	9	7	8	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 56

CALIF	HAJ	OMEGA
AMINO	ALA	RIVAL
CONDO	REB	ELEGY
IOITEMS	ORLESS	
AWL	TOSS	
DES	OLAN	DETAIN
ATTAR	DOSE	ONTO
CHECKOUT	COUNTER	
HEAR	NERO	PEERS
ALMOST	ETAS	SSE
PEON	TWO	
SHOPPING	LISTS	
DEALT	ZOO	NOMAD
EADIE	EDO	GLACE
BLAST	RED	SENSE

Drought costs Russia \$1B in crop losses

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) - Russia's agriculture industry faces losses of over one billion dollars after a record drought destroyed over a quarter of its crops, an official said yesterday.

"The losses amount to about 32.7 billion rubles (1.07 billion dollars)," Deputy Agriculture Minister Alexander Petrikov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

He said the drought had destroyed some 11 million hectares (27 million acres) of crops or 26 percent of the total harvest.

Before the drought and a blistering heatwave, Russia was one of the world's top wheat exporters, but Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced a ban on foreign grain exports earlier this month as the harvest forecast was slashed.

The export ban, which runs at least to the end of the year, helped drive wheat prices to multi-year highs, sparking

fears that food costs could soar and boost inflation.

Russia's harvest is expected to be sharply lower at 60-65 million tons of grain compared with 97.1 million tons in 2009.

So far, Russian farmers have harvested 40.7 million tons of grain, a drop of 17.8 million tons from the same time last year, according to the agriculture ministry.

Despite the export ban, consumers are likely to see some staggering price hikes, such as on buckwheat, a staple in Russian diets.

"Reserves from last year are not large, the forecasts for the harvest this year are down, that is why we expect it to have the sharpest hike in prices to hit buckwheat, from 40 to 60 percent," Mikhail Sussov of the X5 Retail Group distributor told Interfax.

Sussov said he expects the prices of dairy products to rise by 20 to 30 percent due to lower production.

How to write attention-grabbing, money making free reports -part 3-

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed attitude.

To continue on with our topic---how do you get started writing a report?

My answer is simple: just get started---Get a paper and pencil, like I do, and think of a subject, then just start writing just like you would be talking to someone about a subject.

Sometimes I use a tape recorder because my fingers won't go as fast as my mouth does. It makes no difference whether you write it all out longhand or pound away at the computer or typewriter.

Just get it all written. Once you've got your material organized, start writing and don't stop until you're finished.

When you have finished, be proud of yourself. You did well.

Now you need to take a break. Go out to dinner, enjoy a night on the town. Take a much-needed vacation. Whatever.

In other words, put this first draft of your report aside for a few days and allow your brain, your body, and your creative juices to rejuvenate themselves.

Believe me, after a couple of days off, take your report and go through it with a sharp pencil, just as you imagine an editor would do.

Strike out, rewrite and polish each paragraph for clarity, accuracy and flow. This is the time to make sure that what you've written is easy to read, easy to understand, and each sentence follows the one before it, so that it reads like a continuous flow of information.

The smoother the conversation or the writing of your report flows, the easier it'll be to read, and the easier it is to read, the more copies you will sell or give away free.

Now you have a money-making report, or a report that you can give away free to your customers that has the potential to make you a fortune.

A fortune if you are selling it or a fortune if you give it away to your customers.

When you give it away free to your customers, they will be so grateful, that they will recommend their friends and acquaintances to do business

with your company.

This is so important, because if you give away information that will help your customers to better handle any of the problems they have; they will be eternally in your debt.

And this is where the Law of Reciprocity comes into play.

They now feel that they have to reciprocate in some way to reward you for helping them. In some ways, you might say that this newsletter is set up to accomplish the same thing.

I'm trying to write about things that will assist you in getting customers to call, buy and beg for more.

I'm hoping that you in turn are going to refer all of your friends and family, to invest in my products that will help them immensely in their business or practice, and to recommend that they also subscribe to my free newsletter.

I know some of you at this point are saying, "When Ken ended the last tip, he said he was going to give an actual example."

I'm going to hold off on that till the next tip, because when I started this tip, I got a couple of other ideas that I had to talk about first.

So see you on the next tip.

Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596;
 Fax: 888-682-2597
 Email: ken@kenvarga.com
 Website: www.kenvarga.com

European stocks close higher

LONDON, England (AFP) - European stocks closed firmer yesterday, buoyed by a fresh round of takeover activity and helped by miners on speculation they will escape the worst of a planned Australian tax.

Dealers said news that global banking giant HSBC was in talks to buy a majority stake in South Africa's Nedbank kept the takeover theme going after BHP Billiton's 40-billion-dollar hostile bid for Canada's Potash Corp.

Potash formally rejected the bid yesterday but said it was also talking to other interested parties, driving speculation of a bidding war for a key asset play in fertilisers as global food demand increases steadily.

Dealers said the mega-deals on offer helped drive markets which otherwise remained cautious and concerned about signs the global economic recovery is slowing.

In London, the FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 0.76 percent at 5,234.84 points. In Paris, the CAC 40 gained 0.77 percent to 3,553.23 points and in Frankfurt the DAX added 0.10 percent to 6,010.91 points.

Dealers in London said inconclusive Australian elections at the weekend drove speculation a new government may decide to axe a controversial tax on mining profits that has weighed on the sector in recent months.

"Markets are getting excited by the undecided Australian election, which makes it likely that the proposed mining tax will be watered down or ditched completely," said analyst David Morrison at online trading site GFT.

Anglo-Australian giant BHP Billiton added 0.46 percent, giving up some of its early gains.

HSBC rose 0.79 percent while Old Mutual, owner of Nedbank, gained 3.22 percent.

In New York, the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 0.11 percent at around 1600 GMT with the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite down 0.64 percent.

Elsewhere in Europe, Amsterdam edged up 0.16 percent, Brussels put on 0.68 percent, Madrid gained 1.26 percent, Milan was up 0.70 percent and Swiss stocks rose 0.38 percent.

In Asian trade earlier yesterday, Tokyo lost 0.68 percent to close at its lowest since November 27 after talks between senior officials did not produce any sign the government was ready to intervene -- as had been expected -- to curb the rising yen.

Hong Kong fell 0.44 percent and Sydney ended flat after the inconclusive weekend elections.

Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



R-I, Monica and Amarilis with their fellow colleagues

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a goldmine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you



that fit anyone's budget.

For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high

might want to try something from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp,



quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with "funchi" (polenta) and "pan bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

Now they are serving you breakfast with an Aruban twist at bargain prizes.

Monica and Amarilis who

fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have fruit salad and yoghurt.

A perfect restaurant for all in the family.

Whatever your taste might be you are assured that at the Old Fisherman there is a dish on the menu for you at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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The Residences are nestled within the lush greens of the Links at Divi Aruba golf course, adjacent to the new Golf Villas, and share the many amenities of the resort that you know so well: 3 sparkling pools, 3 restaurants, tennis courts, oceanfront fitness center, and more!

Each Residence is available fully furnished, with cool Caribbean colors complimented by rich dark woods. Kitchens are equipped with stylish stainless steel appliances, and modern conve-



niences. As always, our private balconies take advantage of soothing breezes and island views. If you are interested in this exciting new development, we invite you to visit our condominium sales office at the 2nd floor of the Links at Divi Aruba clubhouse next

to Windows on Aruba restaurant.

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Winds tear down 'Anne Frank' tree



AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands -- The chestnut tree that comforted Dutch diarist Anne Frank while she hid from the Nazis during the second World War II collapsed in heavy wind and rain tyesterday.

No one was hurt and the 150-year old tree fell across a fence, missing the Anne Frank House, which has been turned into a museum and was full of tourists.

The tree was one of the few signs of nature visible to the Jewish teenager from the concealed attic she hid in for over two years during the second World War and it is mentioned in the diary which became a worldwide best-seller after her death in a concentration camp in 1945.

"Our chestnut tree is in full

blossom. It is covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year," she wrote in May 1944, not long before she was betrayed to the Nazis.

The tree had developed fungus and was set to be felled in 2007 due to concerns for the safety of the one million people who visit Anne Frank's house each year.

But officials and conservationists later agreed to secure it with a steel frame to prolong its life and saplings from the tree were planted in an Amsterdam park last year.

A Dutch tree foundation, which fought to keep the tree alive with another support group, said horticulturalists had estimated the tree could still have lived for dozens of years.

Acclaimed Israeli winery sets sights on the wider world

RAMAT RAZIEL, Israel (AFP) -- The wines produced at Domaine Du Castel near Jerusalem have turned the world of Kosher wine on its head, winning accolades from around the world, and now this small, family-owned winery has set its sites on the broader market.

A long climb through the winding hills to the southwest of Jerusalem leads to the vineyards of Tzuba, a nearby kibbutz where most of the winery's grapes are grown. Since before dawn, workers have been picking white Chardonnay grapes.

A few hundred meters away stands an ancient wine press. More than 2,000 years old, its presence is a testimony to the long-held tradition of winemaking in this region that dates back to biblical times.

"When the Romans conquered Judaea, they adopted the local viticulture knowhow. This whole area was a productive area which produced very high quality wines," explains Domaine Du Castel's 65-year-old owner, Eli Ben Zaken.

Although tradition of wine-making here goes back millennia, it is only relatively recently that the Judaeen Hills have won international recognition.

Traditionally, the Golan Heights and the Galilee to the north have been considered as the best regions for wine in Israel.

But since the mid 90s, the Judaeen Hills have carved out their own niche in the international wine market, with Castel now recognised as one of the 365 best vintages in the world, according to France's prestigious Bettane & Desseauve guide.

The small, winery has come a long way since 1988 when Ben Zaken planted his first vines on a hilltop next to his house in Ramat Raziel, a moshav, or collective village, some 17 kilometres (10 miles) from Jerusalem.

A self-taught vinegrower who set up his first press inside an old stable, Ben Zaken says he fell into the profession completely by chance.

Born in Egypt of a Moroccan father and an Italian mother, he spent his youth in Europe, variously living in England, Italy and Switzerland. It was there that his love of wine came into its own.

He moved to Israel after the Six Day War of 1967 where he held various agricultural jobs and owned an Italian restaurant in Jerusalem before trying his hand at winemaking.



Eytan Ben Zaken along the early Castel vineyards



Eli Gilbert Ben-Zaken, the founder of the Domaine du Castel winery, is seen in next to the wine barrels.

In 1995, some seven years after planting his first vines, Ben Zaken proudly bottled his first batch -- around 600 bottles made from Cabernet and Merlot grapes -- "made mostly for friends," he says.

Not long after, one of the bottles fell into the hands of British expert Serena Sutcliffe, Master of Wine at Sotheby's in London, who described it as "absolutely terrific ... a real tour de force, brilliantly made."

"I had tears in my eyes," recalls Ben Zaken. "Over the next few days, I went everywhere with that fax in my pocket."

Since then more vines have been planted, with the winery relying entirely on locally grown grapes, most of them from its own vineyards, while others are grown up the road on Tzuba.

Israeli wines tend to be New World wines, but Castel is one of the few wineries to use an Old World approach. And it is also the first one to have adopted the French techniques of viticulture and wine-making.

"We cultivate 6,700 vines per hectare (2.5 acres), compared with an average of 2,200 in the rest of Israel. In this way we manage to produce a dry wine in the European tradition, an Old World wine," explains

Ben Zaken.

High in the ancient, terraced hillsides outside Jerusalem, row upon row of gnarled vines put their roots deep into the terra rossa, clay and limestone soils of Judaeen Hills. The shimmering summer heat, coupled with a permanent Mediterranean breeze helps these vines produce a low yield which has won Castel recognition internationally.

"What threatens the grapes in France is the summer rain which dilutes the taste," explains Marc Sarrabia, head vine grower at Tzuba which produces grapes for half a dozen Israeli wineries, including Castel.

"But here we don't have rain between April and October so we have perfect control over the irrigation and the quality of nutrition given to the vines," he says. "Every year is a good year in Israel!"

Since 2003, all Castel wines have been designated as kosher -- with the entire process, from the pressing of the grapes to the bottling of the wine, strictly supervised by religiously observant Jews.

Going kosher was strictly a business decision: it has allowed Castel to target the global kosher wine market and increase exports.

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Denmark's Wozniacki wins Rogers Cup



MONTREAL (AFP) - Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki easily beat Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2 on Monday in the final of the rain-hit WTA Rogers Cup, one of the final tune-up events for the US Open.

Wozniacki defeated the Russian in a Monday final which was pushed back a day after heavy rains washed out play over the weekend.

The second-seeded Wozniacki started the day by defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova in the semi-finals.

Zvonareva, the eighth seed, also advanced earlier in the day when Belarus' Victoria Azarenka pulled out of their semi-final match in the second set because of a blister on her foot.

Wozniacki earned 350,000 dollars for her third title of 2010. She also won at Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida and in her home city of Copenhagen.

Evra to appeal French World Cup ban

PARIS, France (AFP) - French skipper Patrice Evra is to appeal the five-match ban he was handed by a disciplinary commission for co-leading a training strike during an abortive World Cup, his lawyer said Monday.

"To this day, Mr Patrice Evra has not received notification of the decision by the Federal Disciplinary Commission (of the French Football Federation) on August 17 banning him from the French team for five matches," Jean-Yves Foucard said.

He added that the reasoning behind the ban had not been explained to the Manchester United player and decried varying individual punishment for a collective misdeed.

"Mr Patrice Evra has decided to appeal in that nothing untoward can be ascribed to him on an individual basis given that the responsibility for the said events on the (team) bus at Knysna is to all evidence collective," said Foucard.

Foucard went on to state that the appeal would "allow Mr Laurent Blanc, the national coach, to select Mr Patrice Evra if he so wishes as the appeal is suspensive" under federation rules.



However, a federation legal department spokesman told AFP: "The lawyer has it all wrong. The decision was sent out today and the reasons behind the punishment will be there and the disciplinary body has moreover decided to lift the suspensive element - this appeal is not suspensive."

The federation's commission banned Evra and three other ringleaders of the training ground strike after finding that he had not properly carried out his duties as skipper.

Evra was one of four play-

ers sanctioned for the training strike which followed the sending home of Nicolas Anelka after his dressing room tirade against former coach Raymond Domenech at half time during the defeat to Mexico.

Anelka was banned for 18 matches - effectively ending his France career - Franck Ribery was handed a three-game ban, while Jeremy Toulalan will serve a one-game suspension.

Another player, Eric Abidal, escaped a ban altogether.

Blanc himself said Sunday he was surprised at the varying length of the bans for what he deemed a "collective act" and he called on the Commission to "explain to me if they had clear and precise criteria" behind their ruling.

On the subject of Anelka, Blanc said: "I would like someone to explain to me why 18 matches, and why not 19 or 20 - it needs explaining."

After the bans were first announced Blanc had said: "It's obviously not an ideal situation for French football, which will need all its top players when the qualifying games for Euro 2012 begin."

Earlier Monday, France's former World Cup-winning coach Aime Jacquet called for the lifting of the bans, co-signing a letter sent by the players' union UNFP to the Federation (FFF) to that effect.

The latter blasted the sanctions as "unjust and disproportionate" and estimated that the punishment "pours oil on the fire without reason."

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FIFA in England to assess World Cup bid

LONDON (AFP) - FIFA inspectors began a four-day visit to inspect England's 2018 World Cup bid on Monday, with the campaign boosted by encouraging words from FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

A six-man FIFA inspection team was greeted by Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg at Downing Street and was to meet England manager Fabio Capello before taking a tour of Wembley Stadium.

The team will also assess facilities and stadiums in Manchester, Sunderland and Newcastle this week.

England face a tough battle in the bid to stage football's premier tournament for the first time since 1966, with Russia considered to be the front-runner.

England's hopes of staging the tournament were boosted when Blatter, who has already praised Russia's bid, said it would be "easy" to hold the competition in England.

He told the insideworld-football website from Singapore: "The easiest way to organise the World Cup is to go to England."

"Everything is there -- fans, stadiums, infrastructure -- it's easy."

At their Downing Street welcome, Clegg told the FIFA team that the new coalition government would "continue to back to the hilt the 2018 bid".

"I believe this is an exceptionally strong, unbeatable bid. We in this government believe in it, we hope that you will believe in it," he said.


"We already have the infrastructure and facilities to host the World Cup."

"There really are very few nations that can claim the same passion that we have in England for the game of football."

Andy Anson, the bid's chief executive, said England could deliver "the most spectacular and the most successful World Cup ever."

"Over the next four days, we will show you that as a nation, in terms of football, this is one of the most passionate and diverse in the world."

"The combination of our passion for football, our technical excellence, our hosting experience, our established infrastructure and our commercial strength means that FIFA can be confident that we will deliver operational certainty, financial success and a fantastic and memorable tournament."



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Jimenez aiming for final Ryder shot at Gleneagles



GLENEAGLES (AFP) - Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez has put his dream of playing in one last Ryder Cup ahead of attending his nephew's wedding by competing in this week's European Tour event at Gleneagles.

The tournament effectively represents the cut off point for the nine guaranteed places in European captain Colin Montgomerie's team for the clash against the

United States, with the places decided by where golfers finish in the European Order of Merit.

Jimenez has dropped down to ninth spot, the last guaranteed place on the table, after Peter Hanson's win at the Czech Open.

He could be overtaken by the English duo of Ross McGowan and Simon Dyson or by his fellow Spaniard Alvaro Quiros.

But Paul Casey, Padraig

Harrington and Luke Donald could also have qualified but have instead chosen to stay in the United States and play the first of the FedEx Cup play-off series, which doesn't count to Ryder Cup qualification.

Now, along with England's Justin Rose and Scottish Open champion Edoardo Molinari they all need one of Montgomerie's three wild cards.

England's Chris Paisley and India's Gaganjeet Bhullar have been given the last two invitation spots to the tournament.

The places had been left open in the event Ireland's Harrington and the English duo of Donald and Rose changed their minds about playing in the States.

The Ryder Cup takes place at Celtic Manor near Newport in Wales from October 1-3.

Tevez at the double as City beat Liverpool

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Carlos Tevez scored twice as Manchester City overpowered Liverpool 3-0 at Eastlands here on Monday.

James Milner, on his City debut, set up his former Aston Villa team-mate Gareth Barry to side-foot in the first goal in the 13th minute.

And the Argentina striker got on the end of Micah Richards's header seven minutes into the second half.

Liverpool -- without Javier Mascherano amid reports the Argentina international was on his way to Barcelona -- saw captain Steven Gerrard hit the post with a powerful shot.

Damon claimed by Boston; must decide

DETROIT -- If the Tigers were hoping to push Johnny Damon through waivers for a possible late-August trade, they might be disappointed. The veteran outfielder was claimed on waivers by the Red Sox.

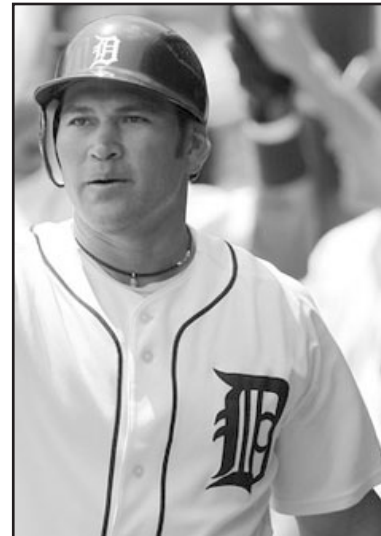
Damon's contract requires his approval for a trade to all but eight clubs. The Red Sox, though, are not one of those clubs. He has until Wednesday to decide whether to accept a move to Boston.

The question then becomes whether Damon would be claimed to set up a possible trade or to block him from being traded to another club. If it's the former, the Tigers would have 48 hours to try to work out a deal with the Red Sox. Otherwise, they would have to either pull him back off waivers or let the claiming team take his contract -- including what's left of his \$8 million salary due -- and receive nothing in return.

There was nothing active on the trade front with Damon as of Sunday, but if Damon was placed on waivers Thursday, as previously reported, teams had until Monday to submit a claim on him. Claims placed on players are processed by league -- American League first in this case, then National League -- then by record, in order from worst to first.

The 36-year-old Damon is batting .270 this season with 30 doubles, seven home runs and 40 RBIs. He has struggled in August, batting .219 (16-for-78) with no homers, four doubles, a triple, eight RBIs and 20 strikeouts.

The Tigers signed Damon to a one-year contract in Feb-



ruary with the idea that he could be the offensive piece that could help them contend again. For a while, they did, leading the AL Central as recently as last month before a month-long slump out of the All-Star break knocked them double-digit games back of the division lead. Detroit recovered with a three-game series sweep of Cleveland this past weekend, but the club remains in third place, 11 games behind the Minnesota Twins.

Damon said last week that he understands why the Tigers might look to deal him and try to save some money or get a prospect in return. He also said he would like to be back with the Tigers next year, whether or not he's traded in the next week or so.

The Tigers added an outfielder on Monday, recalling prospect Casper Wells from Triple-A Toledo, but that move had nothing to do with Damon's situation. The goal there was to get an extra position player back on the roster after going one player short to have an extra reliever last week.

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Clijsters will defend US Open tennis title

BRUSSELS (AFP) – Kim Clijsters has said she will be fit in time to defend her US Open title next week despite sustaining a hip injury while playing in Montreal at the weekend.

But she told Belgian media that a few days rest would see

her back at full fitness in time for Flushing Meadows where she pulled off a major upset last year to win her second Grand Slam title.

"I am in no doubt over my participation in the US Open," she said.

Tiger Woods and wife Elin divorce

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Tiger Woods and his wife Elin Nordegren divorced on Monday, their six-year marriage succumbing to the massive sex scandal that enveloped the world's number one golfer, a joint statement said.

"We are sad that our marriage is over and we wish each other the very best for the future," the statement said. "While we are no longer married, we are the parents of two wonderful children and their happiness has been, and will always be, of paramount importance to both of us."

"Once we came to the decision that our marriage was at an end, the primary focus of our amicable discussions



has been to ensure their future well-being," it said.

"The weeks and months ahead will not be easy for them as we adjust to a new family situation, which is why our privacy must be a principal concern."

Nordegren's lawyer said no information about the terms of their settlement would be released amid reports that Elin, 30, could receive anywhere between 100 million and 500 million dollars in assets.

People Magazine said the couple had agreed to share custody of their two children, Sam Alexis, 3, and Charlie Axel, 1.

A November 27 car crash near Woods's home touched off a global scandal, leading to his admission of adultery and putting his golf career on hold while he fought his own personal demons.

He took a break from the game for several months and received therapy at a sex clinic before returning in March for the first major of

the year, the US Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club in March.

Woods didn't win but came in fourth as he returned in a comfortable setting where he has captured four titles, his first in 1997 being the first major crown won by a black golfer.

Since then, however, a string of performances ranging from mediocre to poor have seen many question whether the 14-time major winner will ever return to his old, dominating form.

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